

OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: 09/03/13

Complaint Number: 13-139420 Type of Incident: Injury accident Reporting Officer: Deputy Doezema Supervisor Approval: Sgt. Johnson

The subject had initially fled from a Michigan State Police Trooper (MSP) on the East Beltline Ave south of Leonard St. The subject fled north on East Beltline Ave at a high rate of speed. MSP followed and the suspect turned east on Knapp St and continued to flee until the troopers lost sight of the suspect near Knapp St and Grand River Ave. The suspects speed was estimated in excess of 100 mph. MSP put out a broadcast to area departments about the subject and vehicle description.

At that time a Kent County Deputy was on I-96 near the East Beltline. The deputy drove to Cascade Rd and decided to take Forest Hill Ave north to try to locate the subject. The deputy located the subject on E. Fulton St. As the deputy approached Ada Dr on Forest Hill Ave, he observed a motorcycle and rider matching the description given by MSP traveling southbound. As he turned his petrol car around the suspect turned his body all the way around and looked at him. The deputy got behind the suspect on Forest Hill Ave at Cascade Rd where he stopped for the traffic light. The light turned green and the subject pulled out into the right turn only lane and passed all the cars in front of him on the right hand side in the intersection at a high rate of speed.

The deputy believed this was the same motorcycle that had fled from MSP. He turned on his lights and siren and pursued the suspect who was traveling at a high rate of speed. The deputy lost sight of the motorcycle for a brief moment. He found that the motorcycle and its driver had lost control through the first sharp turn before crashing in the second tight turn on Forest Hill Ave at Engleside Dr SE. The suspect was transported by Life Ambulance to Spectrum Hospital-Butterworth Campus ER where he remains in critical condition. Alcohol may have played a factor. The pursuit lasted for just over one minute before the driver of the motorcycle lost control.